

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), a marked up copy of each paragraph amended below appears on the page immediately following each amendment.

Please delete page 1, line 3 to page 1, line 13, and insert the following therefor:

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-- BACKGROUND

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Please delete page 4, line 23 to page 4, line 27, and insert the following therefor:

-- SUMMARY

A2  
The disclosure herein is for a method and system which provide an attractive, simple, and competitive way to standardize docking in such a way that the freedom to innovate currently available under proprietary systems is substantially preserved. --

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Please delete page 5, line 14 to page 5, line 23, and insert the following therefor:

A3 -- The foregoing is a summary and thus contains, by necessity, simplifications, generalizations and omissions of detail; consequently, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the summary is illustrative only and is not intended to be in any way limiting. Other aspects, features, and advantages of this patent invention will become apparent in the non-limiting detailed description set forth below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present disclosure may be better understood, and its numerous objects, features, and advantages made apparent to those skilled in the art by referencing the accompanying drawings. --

Please add the following on Page 6, between lines 24 and 25:

A4 -- Figs. 8-11 are embodiments of high-level logic flowcharts. --

Please delete page 7, line 1 to page 7, line 20, and insert the following therefor:

A5 -- DETAILED DESCRIPTION

As noted above, the disclosure herein is for a method and system which essentially give rise to a standardized way of docking. The method and system allow the essentially ad hoc way in which docking is currently done to be relatively easily and painlessly converted over to use of one of many pre-existing industry standards. In one implementation, this is done with what will be referred to herein as a docking device class circuit.

A5

With reference to the Figures, and in particular with reference now to Figure 1A, shown is a pictorial representation of a conventional data processing system in which illustrative embodiments of the devices and/or processes described herein may be implemented. It should be noted that graphical user interface systems (e.g. Microsoft Windows 98 or Microsoft Windows NT operating systems) and methods can be utilized with the data processing system shown in Figure 1A. Portable computer system 120 (a type of data processing system) is depicted which includes system unit housing 122, video display device 124, keyboard 126, mouse 128, and microphone 148. Portable computer system 120 may be implemented utilizing any suitable computer such as any DELL portable computer system, a product of Dell Computer Corporation, located in Round Rock, Texas; Dell is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. --

Please delete page 11, line 4 to page 11, line 15, and insert the following therefor:

A6

-- As noted above, there is no standard defining docking. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that one of the main reasons why no such standard exists is that there is no easy way to accommodate all the various processes and devices by which OEMs in the related art achieve the "details" or "ad hoc" functions/tasks associated with docking (e.g., the functions and tasks associated with one or more of docking controls 160 described in relation to Figure 1D). Following is a description of a few such ad hoc functions/tasks (those skilled in the art will recognize that there are many more ad hoc functions than those described herein), and a way to allow the OEMs to continue practicing the details in whatever fashion they choose, while allowing such free-form ad hoc functions to be detected and controlled in a standardized way which will translate across systems and platforms. --

Please delete page 13, line 18 to page 13, line 29, and insert the following therefor:

A7

-- In operation, during system initialization, the BIOS and/or OS of portable computer system 120 detects the presence of USB docking device class circuit 402. In one implementation, the detection of USB docking device class circuit 402 is done via the detection of a USB identification number specifically associated with USB docking device class circuit 402; in one implementation the foregoing is established via an unassigned USB identifier, but it is expected that at some point in the future by either the USB Implementation Forum, Inc. (a non-profit corporation founded by the group of companies that developed the USB specification, with a physical presence in Portland, Oregon, and a Web presence at the following URL: <http://www.usb.org/info.html>) or the docking station industry generally will actually define a specific USB identification number specifically associated with USB Docking Device Class Circuit 402. --

Please delete page 15, line 1 to page 15, line 11, and insert the following therefor:

A8

-- Those skilled in the art will recognize that in addition or in the alternative to the problems associated with detecting and controlling devices associated with ad hoc functions/tasks related to docking, other problems, related to power supplies, arise in the context of docking. Specifically, some portable computer system OEMs utilize 12 volt power supplies, while others utilize 18 volt power supplies, while still others utilize 24 volt power supplies. Because it is common and substantially preferable in the art to provide power to portable computer system 120 by and through docking station 150 (e.g., via use of docking station power button 133), in order to provide true open-systems docking, it is desirable to allow the same docking station to provide power to a variety of portable computer systems employing a variety of power schemes. USB Docking Device Class Circuit 402 provides such capability. --

Please delete page 23, line 13 to page 24, line 2, and insert the following therefor:

*AG*

-- While particular embodiments of the devices and/or processes described herein have been shown and described; it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that, based upon the teachings herein, changes and modifications may be made without departing from this disclosure and its broader aspects and, therefore, the appended claims are to encompass within their scope all such changes and modifications as are within the true spirit and scope of this disclosure. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the disclosure is solely defined by the appended claims. It will be understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim element is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, as an aid to understanding, the following appended claims may contain usage of the introductory phrases "at least one" and "one or more" to introduce claim elements. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim element by the indefinite articles "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim element to disclosures containing only one such element, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "one or more" or "at least one" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an"; the same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim elements. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim element is explicitly recited, those skilled in the art will recognize that such recitation should typically be interpreted to mean *at least* the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of "two elements," without other modifiers, typically means *at least* two elements, or *two or more* elements.) --